

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A device for attaching a hose to a housing, the device comprising:

first and second arms that are attached to the hose, wherein the first arm extends outward from the hose toward the second arm and the second arm extends outward from the hose toward the first arm.
2. (Original) The device of claim 1, further comprising:

an adapter having an opening on at least one end, wherein the hose is securely received within the opening, and the first and second arms are attached to the adapter.
3. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein the first and second arms are attached integrally to the adapter.
4. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the first arm and the second arm each comprise:

a base portion; and

an end portion.
5. (Original) The device of claim 4, wherein respective base portions of the arms are attached to the hose in a spaced apart relationship.
6. (Original) The device of claim 5, wherein respective end portions of the arms are attached to the base portions and have a spaced apart relationship.
7. (Original) The device of claim 6, wherein the end portions define a longitudinal opening.

8. (Original) The device of claim 7, wherein the base portions define a crosswise opening.

9. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 8, wherein the longitudinal opening is transverse and in communication with the ~~first~~ crosswise opening.

10. (Original) The device of claim 9, wherein the longitudinal opening and the crosswise opening form a “T” shaped recess.

11. (Original) The device of claim 9, further comprising:

an engagement member that is connectable to a housing, the engagement member adaptable to be received within the longitudinal opening and the crosswise opening.

12. (Original) The device of claim 11, wherein the engagement member comprises:
a longitudinal portion and a crosswise portion.

13. (Original) The device of claim 12, wherein the longitudinal portion is transverse to and in communication with the crosswise portion.

14. (Original) The device of claim 13, wherein the longitudinal portion and the crosswise portion have a “T” shape.

15. (Original) The device of claim 13, wherein the longitudinal portion can be received in the longitudinal opening and the crosswise portion can be received in the crosswise opening.

16. (Original) The device of claim 15, wherein the end portions are in contact with the longitudinal portion when the longitudinal portion is received in the longitudinal opening.

17. (Original) The device of claim 15, wherein the base portions and the end portions are in contact with the crosswise portion when the crosswise portion is received within the crosswise opening.

18. (Original) The device of claim 15, wherein the engagement member further comprises:

a plate that is connected to bottom sides of the longitudinal portion and the crosswise portion respectively.

19. (Original) The device of claim 18, wherein the plate is in contact with bottom sides of the end portions when the engagement member is received within the longitudinal opening and the crosswise opening.

20. (Currently Amended) A vacuum cleaner, comprising:

a housing;

a hose having a first end and a second end; and

a device for attaching the first end of the hose to the housing, including;

first and second arms attached to the hose, wherein the first arm extends outward from the hose toward the second arm and the second arm extends outward from the hose toward the first arm;

the first and second arms each having a base portion and an end portion, wherein the base portions of the arms are attached to the hose in a spaced apart relationship defining a crosswise opening and the end portions of the arms are attached to the base portions and have a spaced apart relationship defining a longitudinal opening, which is transverse and in communication with the crosswise opening;

an engagement member, connectable to the housing and adaptable to be received within the longitudinal opening and crosswise openings, having a crosswise portion, a longitudinal portion that is transverse to and in communication with the crosswise

portion, and a plate that is connected to bottom sides of the longitudinal portion and the crosswise portion respectively;

wherein the longitudinal portion can be received in the longitudinal opening, the crosswise portion can be received in the crosswise opening, and the plate is in contact with bottom sides of the end portions when the engagement member is received within the longitudinal opening and the crosswise opening.

~~a housing, wherein the first end of the hose is attached to the housing through utilization of the device of claim 19.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The vacuum cleaner of claim 20, ~~wherein the second end of the hose is attached to the housing through utilization of the device of claim 19.~~ further comprising:

a device for attaching the second end of the hose to the housing, including;

third and fourth arms attached to the hose, wherein the third arm extends outward from the hose toward the fourth arm and the fourth arm extends outward from the hose toward the third arm;

the third and fourth arms each having a base portion and an end portion, wherein the base portions of the arms are attached to the hose in a spaced apart relationship defining a crosswise opening and the end portions of the arms are attached to the base portions and have a spaced apart relationship defining a longitudinal opening, which is transverse and in communication with the crosswise opening;

a second engagement member, connectable to the housing and adaptable to be received within the longitudinal opening and crosswise opening defined by the third and fourth arms, having a crosswise portion, a longitudinal portion that is transverse to and in

communication with the crosswise portion, and a plate that is connected to bottom sides of the longitudinal portion and the crosswise portion respectively;

wherein the longitudinal portion can be received in the longitudinal opening, the crosswise portion can be received in the crosswise opening, and the plate is in contact with bottom sides of the end portions when the second engagement member is received within the longitudinal opening and the crosswise opening.